

## Shorter Notes

ASPLENIUM  $\times$  EBENOIDES R. R. SCOTT IN KENTUCKY.—Early in the winter of 1961, Dan Schreiber asked me to examine several fern specimens collected by one of his students, Donald Willoughby. Among the specimens, all collected in Madison County, Kentucky, were two fronds of a fern unknown to me. I thought they might be hybrids since they were different from ferns commonly found in the area.

The fronds were sent to C. V. Morton who identified them as *Asplenium*  $\times$  *ebenoides* Scott, commonly called Scott's spleenwort or walking spleenwort. This is the rather rare hybrid between *Asplenium platyneuron* Oakes and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* Link.

One frond had the general appearance of *A. platyneuron*, the common ebony spleenwort. The second looked quite different. Some of the pinnae were extremely elongated and resembled closely individual fronds of *C. rhizophyllus* in miniature, even to the somewhat irregular arrangement of the sori. Morton said these were the most robust plants of this hybrid he had ever seen.

Since only individual fronds of this fern had been collected it was hoped that the specimen could be relocated. Mr. Willoughby described the site of the original collection as a wooded slope near College Hill, Madison County. However, subsequent visits to the area failed to relocate the plant. The original collection is deposited in the United States National Herbarium.

It was first believed that this fern had not previously been reported from Kentucky since it was not included in the lists published by Reed (*Castanea* **23**: 1–13. 1961; *op. cit.* **26**: 94–96. 1961), and Smith (*Castanea* **24**: 48–50. 1959). However, a recent list of additions by Reed (*Castanea* **27**: 83–87. 1962) provides a clue to a previous record. Williamson's *Fern Etchings*. Ed. 2, illustrating all the species of ferns indigenous to the northeastern United States and Canada, published in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1879, contains several illustrations of ferns which

he recorded from counties in Kentucky. Plate XVII shows *Asplenium ebenoides*. According to this source, "Professor Wildberger" collected *A. ebenoides* in Franklin County in 1878. Apparently this is the earliest published record for this hybrid in the state.

I wish to thank Conrad Morton for identifying the plant, and Donald Willoughby for giving the specimens to the National Herbarium.—THOMAS A. HUTTO, *Biology Department, School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri.*

### Recent Fern Literature

FLORA OF SOUTHEASTERN WASHINGTON AND OF ADJACENT IDAHO. 3rd Ed., by Harold St. John. Outdoor Pictures, Escondido, Calif. xxix, 1-583. 1 map, 11 figs. October 1963. \$6.95.—The second edition, which appeared in 1956, included about 30 pages of addenda which have now been incorporated into the 3rd edition. The present book is essentially a facsimile reprint of the former editions with some additions and corrections. The sequence of families of angiosperms follows Engler & Prantl. Within each family the genera are arranged alphabetically, as are the species in each genus.

One of the notable features of the 3rd edition is a revised taxonomy of ferns, particularly in the delimitation of families along lines proposed by R. C. Ching, E. B. Copeland, R. E. Holttum, and others, although apparently these authors are not mentioned. There is no evidence of ordinal concept, but there are three classes, with Filicineae inserted between Lycopodineae and Equisetineae. The families of ferns begin with Ophioglossaceae and end with Marsileaceae, with the old "Polypodiaceae" represented by eight families. For one of these, the name Cheilanthaceae would have been preferable to Sinopteridaceae. The families are arranged in the key on p. xviii into two groups according to whether the rhizome is dictyostelic, protostelic or solenostelic.

The book is clearly printed and well-bound and will continue to be useful for identifying plants growing in southeastern